



PUEBLO OF ISLETA  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

P.O. BOX 1270, ISLETA, NM 87022

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August 26, 2009

United States Department of Agriculture  
Dennis Rankin, Environmental Protection Specialist  
RUS, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW Stop 1571  
Washington, DC 20250-1571

Dear Mr. Rankin:

This letter is in response to your letter regarding the proposed San Luis Valley-Calumet-Comanche Transmission Project in Southern Colorado.


I am pleased to inform you that this project will not have an impact on religious or cultural sites affiliated with the Pueblo of Isleta.

**T-004-001** However, in the event that discoveries are found during construction, we would appreciate being advised of such findings. Please forward all environmental assessment plans to our office.

Thank you for your consideration in contacting this office to express our concerns.

Sincerely,

PUEBLO OF ISLETA

  
J. Robert Benavides  
Governor

cc: files

#### **T-004-001: NEPA Process (In Review)**

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. has requested financial assistance from the USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for their anticipated ownership interest in the proposed San Luis Valley – Calumet - Comanche Transmission Project. RUS has determined that funding Tri-State's ownership interest is a federal action requiring analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

RUS is the lead federal agency for NEPA, and will consult with other federal, state, and local agencies, and affiliated tribes as well as adhere to applicable regulations.

Additional information regarding the NEPA process can be found on the RUS project website at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/envIRON.htm>. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.